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County Life

Back to school edition

Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

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Do you remember?
Tales of September on page 3

School daze
Teacher tales on page 5

Behind the scenes
The stories we don't always see on page 7

Back to school!
Local school kids went back to school this past week, with memories of summer behind them, and excitement for a new year ahead. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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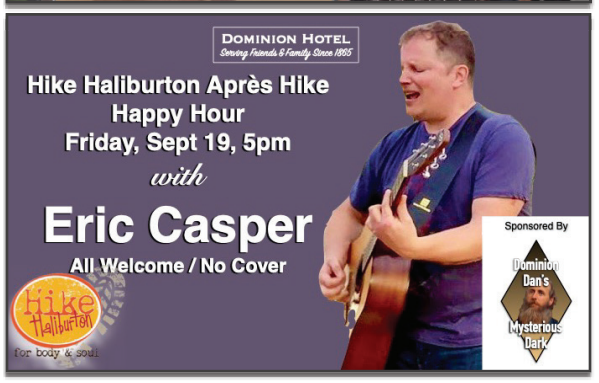

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Voices

I HAD a weird experience recently where I went to an activity that involved some mediation that involved drawing. The instructions were pretty simple: use the crayons and paper on the table to draw what comes to mind as the music playing. I just set to work and focused on the task at hand. In a very short time it became clear that others at my table were not drawing.

Whispers soon began about how they lacked talent, they had not drawn since they were children or how terrible their drawings would be if they tried. I remained engaged in my simple creation of circles and petals and other design doodles. Then I started to hear it, the rumble of peer encounters. I started paying attention and heard - oh look at Teresa, what a show off, thinks she is an artist.

This was all done in playful tones, however it made me think. I feel like the way this played out is a pattern we face over and over in activities of our lives. First there are those that are hesitant to try, perhaps they were told by others that they were not good enough or too much of a show off. Things that we all know happen and affect how we feel about our talents and abilities over time.

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

So here was a group of women, not even willing to put crayon to paper because of some kind of past programming, unwilling to just dive in and get creative. Second of course was also age-old programming and experience. While playful and joking, the next practiced response to not wanting to try was to call attention to those that are trying.

For context I will add that everyone at my table was over 70. There is no age limit to how we limit ourselves. Is there anything that you are not doing because some old recording in your head is telling you not to? Where did that message come from? Could it have been true? Or could it have been a coping mechanism of another person just trying to get by and hide their own vulnerability. What does it all mean?

I think we should just pick up a lot more crayons and start creating no matter what the circle around you teasingly says. Try the new thing, sit quietly and meditate in any way that works, shut out the voices - both mean and playful - that try to criticize or devalue your efforts. Just do the things, make your own heart sing and keep going, the whole group will benefit and our community will thrive.

Hummingbird by Jill Moulton

County Life

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September

DEB REED

Wind in the Attic

WHEN I was little, I'd notice a crisp rustling in high treetops. It would tease in late August, then stealthily follow me back to school. Only rarely over the next ten months would I get to hear this through open windows. Colder winds were already warning us, and we'd know, outside of flying homemade kites, that most of our autonomous fresh-air freedoms would be lost.

It's September again. Squirrels and I grow hungrier, edgily fattening up for hibernation to come. I'll soon prefer cooking my greens to crunching them, and daily tea will shift from iced to steaming. I'll start craving oats, Brussel sprouts, potatoes, soup, black pepper. Camping becomes truly special. Socks return. Duvets. Hoodies. Reading. Observing trees. Victorian poet Tennyson described their natural turning: 'Willows whiten, aspens quiver, Little breezes dusk and shiver …' It's specifically when I see and hear those whispering leaves, like soft applause, or gentle surf, that I know I'm shifting again, and gratitude burgeons.

Fall might cap a child's summer, but it's also freeing. No more bugs that bite. Vegetable beds get to prove that near-invisible springtime seeds have morphed into dinner-features. Creatures who've flown here to breed fade subtly from our yards. Still, such are the Elysian Fields of window-dreamers.

I haven't written verse in a long time, but when I catch myself slipping words into rhapsodies, I'm helpless for an internal minute. Outdoor beauty often feels saner than anything indoors. Calm comes quickly for those who choose it over human babble. Checking sky on the daily slips sweetness into overloaded bloodstreams. If we hear the wind playing wild whispers up the tallest branches, we might just have reached our calendar's ninth month.

As if with child, September is delicately born into my favourite season. Clouds take on magic hues, and sunbeams shaft low and golden. I've always loved blue and yellow together. Blended, as we all learned, they form a fresh new colour, that ancient one of nature, youth and harmony.

'September,' its namesake disco-funk chart-topper, was released in 1978 by Earth, Wind and Fire. It's a mainstay on my all-time playlist. Not so gentle and subtle, perhaps, but an irresistible nod to the golden heartbeat keeping love on this earth.

After a near-frightening Ontario drought most of July and August, 'petrichor' finally sifted through our screens last week. I could actually smell the oncoming weather. That stony-metallic aroma of precipitation heralded desperate revival in the sorry woodlands, gardens, rain barrels, rivers and birdbaths. Flowers won back their colours just in time to encourage long final sips by female and juvenile Ruby-throated hummingbirds. Males had exited much earlier. Perhaps Canada's truest 'snowbirds,' they bypass our northern blizzards and migrate closer to Florida and Mexico to avoid all ravages of our temperate winter.

I'm closing windows more, not only overnight, but most daytimes too. This cuts me off from disappearing frog and birdsong. But in corduroy and 'sensible' shoes, I'll venture outside to reach these, along with any restless treetops within myself.

/submitted by Deb Reed

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The cure is worse...

WHEN YOU get to a certain age, the spam email you get changes. It used to offer ways to enhance your love life, it now introduces miracle cures for ailments you never even knew existed.

Yesterday, for example, I received an email that purportedly had information that would help me alleviate my "stuck mucous," which is something I never even knew I had.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

In fact, last I checked, my mucous was unstuck.

But that's not the point.

The point is after reading a few of these emails, I think I missed my calling.

Not to brag, but I can see myself in the think tank where these gems are first born.

"Look gang," the boss would probably say, "our email campaign to monetize a cure for unstuck mucous is in a slump – even Galea didn't go for it."

I would then take a deep unstuck breath.

Sales are going down," he'd then say. "We need something sexier …"

"How about galloping goiters? Have we ever tried that?" says Harris, the young, ambitious intern fresh out of Harvard.

"What are galloping goiters?" the boss would say.

Harris and everyone else would be at a loss.

That's when the boss would introduce me as the newest member of the team. He'd cite my wit and wisdom and note that I am part of the demographic we are trying to sell to. Then he'd conclude with the fact that I work for peanuts. Literally peanuts. And he'd hand me half a dozen – unshelled.

"Well Galea," one of my colleagues might say.

"Call me boy wonder," I'd reply.

Then I would introduce the fake ailment that would make me an email marketing legend for years to come – that's right, obstructing eyebrows.

"Obstructing eyebrows?" Some younger marketer would gasp. (Not Harris though. He's clearly out of his depth.)

"Yes," I'd reply. "Eyebrows so wild that they obstruct your vision or get tangled in your reading glasses … In severe cases, they can even trip you when you attempt to jog."

"But the seniors we market to rarely jog," someone would counter.

"Only because they have jogfoot," I smile. "For which we will develop a special running shoe insert that is conducive to jogging."

"How can an insert be conducive to jogging?" Harris will undoubtedly ask.

"It heats up to 100 degrees Celsius … " I'd reply.

At that, the room would gasp and then fawn in admiration.

"See!" the boss would yell. "I told you he'd shake things up!"

"Speaking of shaking things up," I'd interrupt. "Have we ever tried to monetize "wattle shake?"

"What is that?" They'd ask. (Not Harris though. By this time, he is just sitting there being sullen.)

"It's the condition where the loose skin between your chin and throat shakes whenever you laugh or give someone a stern talking to. Happens to my people all the time …"

"Is it serious?" The boss would ask.

"It can make bow-tie use nearly impossible," I'd say.

The gasps would be audible.

I guess what I'm trying to say here is that I have a natural flair for these things and could contribute to that industry in a meaningful way. Heck, in a few years, they'd probably give me a lifetime achievement award.

I know it sounds like a pipe dream, but I can see it happening. Mostly because I have found a miraculous cure for obstructing eyebrow …

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Writing on the Senior Side

Back to school

GAIL STELTER

County Life Contributor

September is, and will always be, back-to-school. As we age, our involvement in this seasonal tradition changes. Perhaps we feel a sense of order as life around us and with us returns to the school year calendar. Perhaps there is a sadness to know families are revving up for everyday life, and we won't see some of them again until Thanksgiving. As a retired educator, the memories surface and my life lived is recalled with joy. Whatever role my career included, the feeling that I could make a difference and that I would hold them in my heart always persevered. Great responsibility combined with great endeavour, beautiful, and unique children. A recipe for a rewarding career.

This September, five of our grandchildren are going to university, two are in high school, and two are in elementary school. We've got this school thing covered. We are now seniors who watch the education and school experiences of our grandchildren unfold. So much joy!

I have this idea to write short fiction stories about teachers. My personal experiences will infiltrate, sometimes obviously and sometimes in obscure, brief hints. Nevertheless, the facts, the essence and outcome of each story will be true. Fiction gives me the freedom I need and love to explore, explain and share. Creative non-fiction proves that real people have amazing, heartfelt and humorous stories.

Here are drafts of my first two short stories. I expect to write two or three stories each month and to publish them in a collection. I would welcome your thoughts, and if you have a story you'd like to share and see in print, please let me know. If you would like to be a guest author/ contributor to the collection, that would be awesome. I am thinking the title of the collection will be "The World's Best Teacher Mugs and Clubs", (okay, that's too long, need to rethink that). The front cover will be a mug that says "World's Best Teacher."

Mae's Story

The first day of school.

Mae looked at those sweet little faces, some smiling, some a little nervous, some seemed set in fear and apprehension. They were all hers, and she was thrilled. The journey from stay-at-home mom to classroom teacher had been a delightful life change, which included years of classes and practice. She did it, and she was ready to make a difference. Mae laughed as she thought of the first time she told her three children she was going to be a teacher.

"You're not a teacher. You're our mom."

"You're going back to school. When will you be done and stay home again?"

Mae spent hours planning that first day. It would be perfect. The time flew by. She was tired as she arrived home and realized she had forgotten to take the meat out of the freezer. Mae smiled and decided that every new teacher mom needs a microwave. She made soup and sandwiches for dinner.

It had been an incredible day. As soon as the kids were in bed, she set about revisiting her plan for day two. Nothing would stop her now.

The second week of school.

A hazy film over her eyes reminded Mae had been up all night. Her five-year-old son, Mikey, was coughing and seemed in distress. Off to the hospital they went, and Mikey was put into an oxygen tent. Mae couldn't go to school. She wouldn't leave her son. Her day plans weren't quite finished, and she didn't care. She spent the next three days at the hospital. No sick pay when your child was sick. She didn't care. Maybe being a teacher was not a good choice at this time in her life. Maybe she should have waited until they were older. She felt deflated.

Mikey got better. Mae got some sleep. Mae went back to teaching.

One Winter Morning

"Mikey, get your snowsuit and boots and bring them here to the front hall. Mary, please get all lunches and put them in the backpacks. Steve, I don't know where you left your homework. Look on the dining room table. Mary, where are your mitts? Mikey, stop wriggling, just put your leg in."

Mae sat on the bottom step of the stairs, wrestling with the snowsuit and wondering if she had packed her own books. Tears appeared and slid soundlessly.

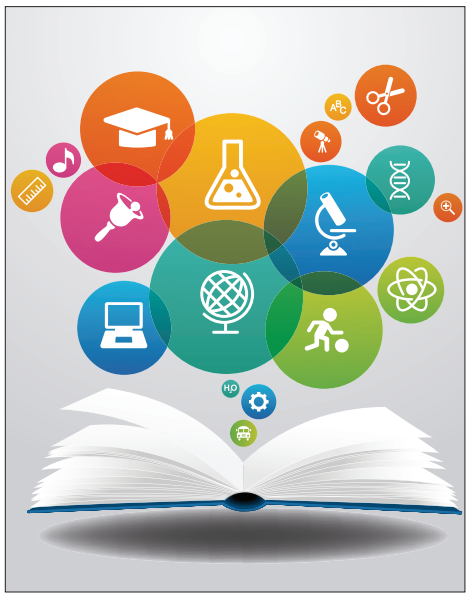
The front door flew open, boots stamped to shake off the snow. The front walk was shovelled, and the car was warming up. Her husband, Sean, came in.

"Okay, crew, let's get this show on the road." Then he saw Mae. What's wrong? Oh, honey, you know you don't have to do this. You can go back to staying home. It will be fine."

Mae laughed through the tears. "Sean, these winter mornings are a little overwhelming, but when I get there, I love it. I love being a teacher."

Jonathon's Story

Year One. Jonathon wanted to be a teacher. He made a friend, Mark, in teachers' college. Mark's dad was the Director of Education. Jonathon got hired, and he was determined to work hard and show he deserved his position. He had charm and an outgoing and happy personality. The grade seven kids loved him. He liked teaching and was an excellent teacher, but



it was a lot of work. He tried, he really tried, but it was a lot of work. He also liked to party all weekend and couldn't quite get his act together for Mondays. How many Mondays could he call in sick before his principal would notice? How many times could he go to school without any day plans? He wasn't sure why he couldn't do the work. He just didn't do it.

His principal felt he was lost. Jonathon's mom had died when he was at teachers' college. He needed his mom. The principal tried to be there for him. She taught his rotary grade seven and eight history class for him so he wouldn't have so much to prepare. He cared and he appreciated the help, and together they made it through the year.

Year Two. Jonathon was absent the first week of school. He made himself sick with guilt and worry. He decided to move to the town where his brother lived. He quit teaching.

Enjoy September, especially if you are newly retired and not going back to school.

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Back to school

IT'S A time of big feelings, this back to school time. Like clockwork, when the temperatures start to dip and the leaves adopt an orange tinge, my mind races back to grade school.

I started Kindergarten at Victoria Street School, just off Pine Avenue and Victoria Street, in the heart of Haliburton - where Community Living resides today.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

There was a smell of manilla envelopes and bristol board cut-outs in the shapes of apples and pumpkins that still transports me back even to this day.

Unlike the majority of other local kids, my family was raised vegetarian. I remember trying to trade tofu bologna sandwiches with yellow mustard in exchange for something more palatable. Never had any takers, though.

I stayed at that school until Grade 2, when we seven-year-olds felt we ruled the roost, being the oldest kids in the yard; concocting stories of the Swamp Monster that lived beneath the monkey bars at the bottom of the hill. That same hill we rode crazy carpets down in the winter, and barrel rolled through mud in the spring months.

Part-way through Grade 2, our classes were hauled over to the newly-opened Stuart Baker Elementary School. The gleaming tile floors and hand-dryers in the bathrooms were the talk of the town (and by 'town' I mean fellow Grade 2 comrades,) and we didn't find ourselves missing the beveled glass of the arching windows at our former school.

To this day, a time capsule sits beneath the bell in the front hall of Stuart Baker. As the first class to walk through those halls, we were tasked with finding a trinket or toy to add to the mighty time capsule. I am not sure if/when that will be opened, but I take pride in knowing that there is a little piece of me in that school.

I thought about that when both my step-daughters started and graduated from that little school; onto the mighty J. Douglas Hodgson school, where tween-agers set the tone.

I'll think of it once again, when my son one day starts his first day there. The smell of manilla envelopes and bristol board cut-outs in the shapes of apples and pumpkins wafting through the halls.

Of course, these days of school are different. Where we once had chalkboards and dust, there now sits whiteboards and clickers. I recall a computer lab, where big boxes of state-of-the-art technology boomed and bustled as they groaned to life, whirring and whizzing as they grappled at something that resembled connectivity. Today, each child is given a tablet to use through the school year, their tech-enhanced brains working faster than our lugs of computers ever did.

But while there are changes, there are forever similarities in the shared experience of back to school. The nerves, the excitement, the feeling of a fresh start. With the change in technology there is the natural change in roles; time pressing on as we age and grow.

Where I was once the one skipping to school, narrowly avoiding the Swamp Monster while wearing frilly socks folded down over velcro shoes, now it's my own kids.

And that familiar ache of change seeps its way into my heart. Our eldest is closer to high school than elementary school, now. The middle one is confident in her role and place amongst tween-agers; the ones she does cartwheels with in the field and swaps snacks with at recess. And the youngest, I know, is only a blink away from starting that chapter himself.

How does that happen? I swear it was just me, navigating the hallways when the temperatures started to dip and the leaves adopted an orange tinge. And now it's them. New grades, new teachers, new friends, new chapter.

Life happens fast.

But don't worry, we skipped the tofu bologna this time around.

Top 10 other reasons for taking off your Tilley hat

I GET it. Summer isn't quite over yet. But the truth is, one day soon, it will end. And that means you'll have to put away your Tilley hat for another year. As we all know, in cottage country, summer is the time when a person and their Tilley Hat are inseparable. Yet even in summer, there are times when you must, through no fault of your own, remove your Tilley hat.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

So, without further ado, here are the Top 10 other reasons for taking off your Tilley hat.

1. You need to put on your motorcycle helmet.
2. You are about to enter a very stringent nudist colony.
3. A gorilla is pulling your hat through the bars of his cage and your chin strap is still on.
4. When the pitcher is wild and throwing 100 mph fast balls.
5. After some big, angry man walks in the bar and says, "Has anyone seen a guy wearing a Tilley hat?
6. Before entering any black-tie affair.
7. During a hair cut.
8. When going to sleep for the night.
9. Just before you do your Chuck Norris imitation.
10. Right after a flock of incontinent pigeons passes overhead.

Gathering

Red-winged blackbirds gathering at the marsh,
to perform their evening concert for free, arriving alone or in pairs, dozens of wings, fluttering through Air,
to find their perch on the relics of trees, poking from the water that's thick as sludge,
sharing space on a withered branch with another blackbird or finding a place, all on their own,
on the top of a dead tree,
the choir of blackbirds enlivening the cemetery of trees, slicing through the stillness with their song,
that trickles through Air, over the bones of trees, onto the trail, where I stand by the reeds, listening,
their singing, replenishing as ripples of breeze after Rain, wondering whether the pair of mallards listens too,
as they perform their evening ablutions by the reeds, preening themselves,
smoothing their feathers with their beaks, scratching their bellies with their feet,
serenaded by the chorus of blackbirds chirping on the skeletons of trees,
the pair of mallards clamber onto a tiny island, springing from the marsh, cloaked in clumps of dirt
and thatches of grass,
room only for two, as they nestle alongside one another to rest and listen, flashes of red, smearing Air,
as more blackbirds arrive to join the choir, landing on branches where their con-freres already perch,
making room for the new arrivals, always enough space for voices to sing,
their evening concert silencing the crows that screeched along the trail, as I meandered my way to the marsh,
wondering whether they're listening too, hiding somewhere in the branches of their tree,
whether their ears hear the beauty of the song, the way humans' do,
what a privilege and pleasure to be able to stand here by the reeds, the pair of mallards for company,
and listen in silence to the red-winged blackbirds sing, inhaling Air, scrubbed by Rain,
evening breeze grazing my cheeks, gentle as the song that wafts over the marsh,
over the bones of dead trees that still stand, a place for the blackbirds to land and gather
and share their song with those who pause long enough to listen,
the pair of mallards curled on their tiny island for two, before they drift off along a water path
through the reeds,
toward the place where they sleep, the crows, quiet in their trees, listening to the strangeness of
other birds' voices,
softer than their own, a black bird with white feathers speckling its belly, lands on the top branch
of a tree to listen too,
to the choir of red-winged blackbirds perform their evening concert for free,
wondering how many more there will be, as Sun plunks into the hills, a sliver earlier every evening,
and Wind tears through summer Air, the gathering of red-winged blackbirds, scattering,
while the relics of trees remain,
holding space for all the members of the choir 'till they come back again.

Sylvie Kalenda

SIRCHlight *Creating connection and resilience – together*

The stories we don't see

At the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, we've been leaving sticky notes on the tables. Just a pen, a small square of paper, and a simple invitation: "Write a kind note. To anyone. About anything."

People have embraced it with enthusiasm. The motivators write things like: "Be the change you want to see in the world." The philosophers remind us: "Life is like a photograph… we develop from the negatives." The travellers leave cheerful notes -"Greetings from Italy!" or "First breakfast in Canada!" And, of course, there are plenty of thank-yous and kind words about the food, the staff, and the impact SIRCH has in the community.

But every once in a while, a note appears that takes our breath away.

A few weeks ago, a customer wrote:

"Today would have been my son's 12th birthday. I had a coffee and a scone outside and for a moment it felt like he was sitting with me. Thank you SIRCH for making time stand still for a moment."

When we read that, there were no dry eyes. And it reminded us of something important: we rarely know the whole story of the person across from us, or standing in line beside us, or serving our coffee. We see each other in roles - customer, cashier, coworker, volunteer, politician, parent, cottager. But behind every role is a story we can't see.

What if we paused before judging?

What if, instead of muttering "She looks miserable," we added a gentle "maybe" - "Maybe she just left her dog at the vet." What if, instead of fuming because someone is driving 15 kilometres under the speed limit, we reframed it as: "Maybe the Universe put them there to keep me from being in the wrong place at the wrong time. I just dodged a bullet." What if, when someone seems rude or withdrawn, we offered grace: "Maybe he's thinking about his dad's funeral."

We don't always know what people are carrying. But we can always choose how we respond.

And then, what if we went a step further? Offered a smile. A kind word. A compliment. Paid for their coffee. These gestures may seem small, but to someone who is hurting, they can mean everything. They can be the pause that makes time stand still, just long enough for someone to feel seen, or less alone.

The sticky notes at the Bistro have shown us something simple and profound: everyone has something to say, and everyone has something to give. Sometimes it's laughter. Sometimes it's wisdom. Sometimes it's a quiet piece of their heart.

We don't always see each other's stories. But we can choose kindness. And maybe, just maybe, that's enough to lighten someone's load for the day.

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kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

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4+1 bedrooms, a grand living room featuring vaulted ceiling, a country-style eat-in kitchen, equipped with a propane stove and quartz countertops. Main floor includes a 4-piece bathroom, 2 bedrooms, upstairs features additional 3 piece bathroom & 2 more bedrooms & 1 more room on the upper floor. Newer propane furnace, windows, central air conditioning, propane BBQ hookup, Maibec siding, seamless eavestroughs, and a newer septic system. Underground hydro and a generator panel.

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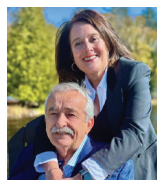
www.lisamercer.ca
lisa@lisamercer.ca

53 HARMONY RD $834,000

Stunning 4 Bedroom, 3 Bathroom Raised Bungalow! Open Concept Design with Custom Kitchen, Living-room, Diningroom, Main Fl Master with Ensuite, Family Rm with Walkout to Pool & HotTub Large Private Rear Yard. Oversized Attached Garage with Workshop! Walking distance to down-town Haliburton.



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John Parish 705-457-5485
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Sales Representatives

LUXURIOUS HOME WITH POOL $915,000

- 📍 3981 Deep Bay Road
- 🛌 3+1 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
- 💦 Fully fenced In-ground Pool
- 🌳 1.38 acres, 2,000 sq ft Finished living space
- 🍳 Eat-In Kitchen with Garden doors to exterior
- 🌺 Landscaped yard w/armour stone and perennial gardens throughout
- 🚗 Detached double Car Garage

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- Open concept layout
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- 2-car garage + 1-car garage
- Smart home, monitor while your away
- Fully furnished

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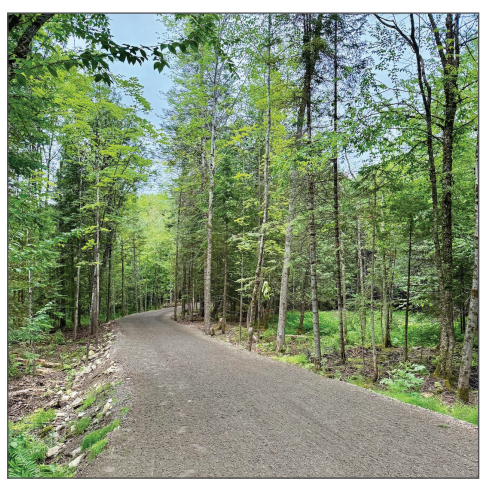
sue-sotiriou.remax.ca

2166 BLAIRHAMPTON ROAD $529,000

1100 SQ. ft. 3 bedroom bungalow sits on private 5.5 acre lot in peaceville Blairhampton - cozy country kitchen and dining area - 4pc bath - new septic 2018 - full w/o basement unfinished - FA propane - 26' x 40' 2 storey garage - fully insulated - 2nd floor wide open and carpeted - FA propane heating

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

TOM BOLTON ROAD - VACANT LOT $164,900



- Ideal Location To Build Your Dream Home or Getaway!
- Private, well-treed, 4.88-acre parcel.
- Cedar buffer which opens up to a mature mixed hardwood bush.
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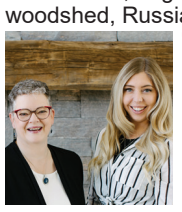
37 ACRE HOMESTEAD $999,000

This 3 bedroom, home offers a large livingroom,an open-concept kitchen/ dining area with a large deck. A 28'x60' detached garage has storage in the front, walls started for a full 3 bdrm, 1 bath apartment in the back, plus in-floor heating. Property is partially covered under a Forest Management System for reduced taxes. 2 tiny homes on foundations, large shelter, greenhouse, woodshed, Russian sauna and more.



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- Level lot - 1.93 acres
- Lots of upgrades

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WILBERFORCE $209,900

- 6 acs; perfect for country retreat
- Sellers have done many upgrades
- Building site cleared & ready to go
- Hydro in & drilled well installed
- Driveway & septic system are in
- Lvl lot around site; mixed terrain
- Nature abounds on well treed lot
- Private setting yet close to town
- Year round access at Cedar Lk Rd

Rick Forget
Broker
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7 STOUFFER ST

Charming and fully renovated 2 Bedroom home (2024 updates)
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Private yard with treed border
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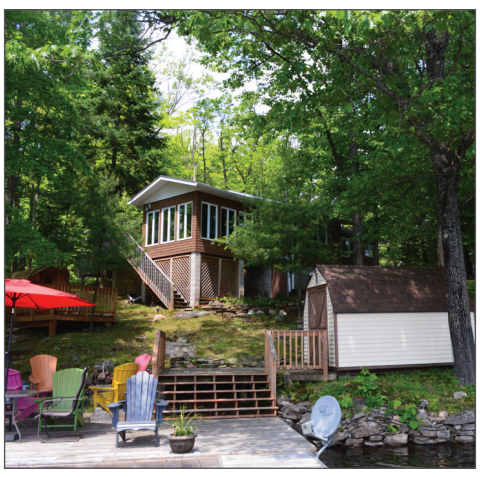
Jackie Hardman
Sales Representative
705-879-8041
jackiedhardman@gmail.com

KUSHOG LAKE $809,000



Spotless 4-season cottage, insulated guest cabin. 3-season sunroom w/cathedral beamed ceilings. Modern pine ceiling kitchen w/ skylight, living room w/wood stove & lg master bdrm. 124 ft of frontage. Deep water off dock's end,& walk-in entry. Lakeside deck & dock system, & firepit area and 4-person wood-fired barrel sauna! Solid concrete block foundation w/ crawl space, lake water w/ heated line, UV system, lg rear deck, low maintenance yard and building. new windows, exterior door, washer/dryer (2023+/-). New mudroom.

Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

STARTER HOME $220,000

- One Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bathrooms
- Two Living Spaces and Kitchen
- Main Floor Laundry
- Main Floor Storage

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Belted Kingfisher by Jill Moulton

Raccoon by Vivien Mausz

Coy pup in the yard by Tammy Nash

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A long time resident of Saskatchewan Lake. Submitted by Christine Cote

Sandpiper by Tammy Nash

Standing bear by Tammy Nash

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Loon by Jill Moulton

Coyote pup by Tammy Nash

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Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother's day breakfast $13.00/ person
Friday night BBQ
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Special Events Only, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays: Sept. 15, 22, 29 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Sept. 23 Veterans Appreciation Dinner. Tickets are $20 each. Veterans and their Spouse are free. Cocktails Start at 5 p.m. Dinner to follow.
Wednesdays: Sept. 10, 17, 24 Darts $4/player 2 p.m., Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cribbage League 6:30 p.m. – Sign up at the Legion
Thursdays: Sept. 11, 18, 25
Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m.
Sept. 11, 25 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Fridays: Sept. 19 Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20
Sept. 12, 26 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, noon, Wings and Jam Session $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturdays: Sept. 13, 20, 27 Board Games 2 p.m., Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Sept. 20 Open Mic 2 to 6 p.m. $1 each
Sept. 28 Nacho Average Trivia Night 7 p.m.
Sunday: Sept. 14 L.A Breakfast $10. 9 to 11 a.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers Cruise Night
When: Thurs., Sept 11, 5:30 p.m. to dusk
Where: Haliubrotn Library parking lot, Haliuburton

Needle Felting Workshop
When: Friday, Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon
Where: Wilberforce Library
Craft your own soft, colorful autumn leaves in this relaxing needle felting workshop at the Wilberforce library on Friday, September 5 from 11am-12pm. Using simple techniques, you'll create textured leaves—perfect as decorations or thoughtful gifts. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Cast Your Vote
When: Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon
Where: Dysart Library
Drop by the library for a relaxed, social atmosphere where you can cast your vote for your favourite Evergreen Award-nominated title while sipping a warm cup of coffee or tea and enjoying light refreshments. Your vote helps choose this year's winner of the Evergreen Award - part of the Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading program.

Canning 101
When: Saturday, September 6 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Join us for Canning 101, a beginner-friendly workshop all about preserving the fresh flavours of summer. In this hands-on session, we'll cover the basics of home canning - including water bath techniques, food safety, and storage - as well as explore other methods like freezing and drying. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Creative Craft Session
When: Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Join us for a creative craft session designed for adults! Using simple materials like pipe cleaners, beads, and floral tape, you'll learn how to twist and shape vibrant pipe cleaner flowers. All materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Create a Fun Craft
When: Sept. 11 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
All ages are welcome to create a fun craft. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver. No registration required.

Drop-In Tech Help Session
When: Friday, Sept. 12 between noon and 2 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Library
Got a tech question or issue? Drop by the library for a Drop-In Tech Help Session for quick, friendly, and expert assistance. Whether you're struggling with your smartphone, computer, apps, or any other tech-related problem, library tech support is here to help you get back on track. Come to the Stanhope library on Friday, Sept. 19 between 12 and 2 p.m.

The Art and Craft of a Short Story Workshop
When: Saturday, Sept. 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Dysart Library
Join writer and screenwriter Hope Thompson for a creative and engaging workshop focused on the art and craft of the short story. Through group discussion and guided activities, participants will explore key elements such as character, structure, and narrative voice. You're encouraged to bring your work and questions. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Point in Time Presents: An Evening with Kael Reid
When: Sept. 13, 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: The Music Room at Castle, 223 Highland St. Haliburton
Queer folksinger and recording artist Kael Reid is a whip-smart wordsmith who is sure to entertain. Come join us and get your Pride on! Tickets $25 in advance or $30 at the door. Proceeds towards the expansion of the Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub. Sponsored by: Point in Time/Youth Hub, The Music Room at Castle, Pride in the Highlands. For more information call 705-457-5345.

Haliburton Veterans Decoration Day
Where: St. Anthony and Evergreen Cemetery, Pine Street, Haliburton
When: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 10 a.m.
Opening ceremonies at the St. Anthony Cemetery with music provided by Gord Kidd. White crosses will be placed on veterans gravesides at St. Anthony and then Evergreen Cemetery (Approx. 180 crosses) by Legion & Ladies Auxiliary members, Haliburton Lions members and the senior students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (Independent Studies Class). Closing ceremonies at Evergreen Cemetery with music provided by Gord Kidd. Light refreshments will follow the placing of the crosses. The cross will remain in place until the following Sunday.

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Monday, September 10, 2001 Number 2009

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GOING WITH THE FLOW: The Minden Wild Water Preserve was alive with activity this past weekend as paddlers converged on Minden for the annual Open Canoe Championships. This participant was caught on film Friday afternoon practicing his technique through the slalom course. Competitors spent Friday and Saturday getting a feel for the course, with the racing held all day Sunday. For more information and another photo, see page 9.

9-1-1 process moving ahead

by Jerry Grozelle

Preliminary mapping for 9-1-1 in Haliburton County has been completed. That was part of Stephen Foster's report at the August meeting of Haliburton County Council. Foster noted that there are some changes to be made and the final road naming has yet to be completed.

Foster suggested that each township form a road naming committee, which would review the names and report back to council.

The county has 101 property owners' associations and Foster's assistants had contacted 90 of those associations as of late August. "Things aren't going as smoothly as we had hoped regarding contact with the lake associations," he said. "But we have come a long way."

Foster expressed the concern about roads that are named after a resident. He said there could be conflicts which could result in delays in the process.

"There will be conflicts," he said. "That's part of the reason for forming road naming committees."

Foster admits that the process is not

(more on page 15)

ENTHUSIASTIC PERFORMANCE: The final Music by the Gull conert was held August 31 on South Water Street in Minden. The Gentlemen of Song, under the direction of Marg Jeske, were featured, along with Womyn Out Loud, an all female choral group from Haliburton. As the photos above demonstrate, Marg, with accompanist Elsie Lewis, is an enthusiastic conductor who works hard to encourage the all male chorus. At several points in the performance, the director invited the audience to sing along with the group. Music by the Gull was organized by Lori Reddering and Glenn Carter, with the help of volunteers and financial support from the Minden Lions Club

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